



### 1 Use eye-AF

A sharp eye is the key to a good portrait. Use eye-AF to ensure sharpness and then experiment with different apertures to see how depth of field can alter a portrait's feel.



### 2 Focal length

Wide-angle lenses will distort the face, so classic portraiture is usually taken with a longer focal length, often 85mm, 105mm or 135mm.



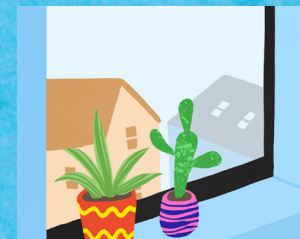
### 3 Be at the same height

For a natural look, make sure the camera is at the subject's eye level. Get the subject to look at the camera and raise their chin slightly.

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# Portrait photo success

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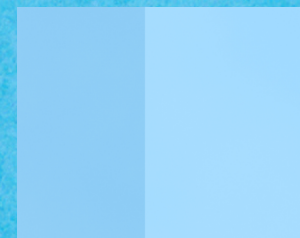
### 4 Lighting

Window light from the side is great for portraits. You could also add a lamp on the other side for 'fill'. Lighting from the side accentuates the contours of the face, whereas light from the front flattens faces out.



### 5 Use a friend

Invite someone you know well to be your model when starting out. The process will be more relaxed and you'll feel more confident in asking them to move around.



### 6 Choose a plain background

Props can tell a story but try to stay away from busy backgrounds that could distract the viewer from the subject.

Portrait lenses: three of the best for any budget



**Classic portrait**  
NIKKOR Z 85mm  
f/1.8 S



**FX Zoom option**  
NIKKOR Z 24-120mm  
f/4 S



**DX choice**  
NIKKOR Z DX 18-140mm  
f/3.5-6.3 VR

